AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 U.S. Appln. No. 09/817,251

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2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sucked liquid is discharged together with air.

8. (Amended) An apparatus for stirring a liquid in a container, comprising: a container in which a liquid is contained; and

a means for sucking a part of the liquid from the container and for discharging the sucked liquid into liquid remaining in the container,

wherein the container opens at the top thereof, and

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wherein the means horizontally moves so that the liquid is discharged into the container at a position different from that where the liquid has been sucked from the container to thereby stir the liquid.